

BAKEWELL
Rural District Council.

Annual Report

ON THE
RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT,

For the Year 1923,

BY

Thomas Fentem, M.D., B.Sc.,

Of the Middle Temple. Barrister-at-Law.

Medical Officer of Health.

Printed by Order of the Council,

ALFRED HAWES,

Clerk.

DAGNALL,

BAKEWELL,

March 5th, 1924.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BAKEWELL
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MY LORD DUKE AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the Year 1923. The Report follows the directions of the Ministry of Health, and is on similar lines to those on which my last Annual Report was arranged.

The District covers an area of 84,233 acres, including that covered by water.

The Population at the Census 1921 was 20,328, as compared with a Population of 20,257 at the Census 1911. If the population is to be estimated to the middle of 1923 on the basis of these figures one obtains an estimated population of 20,342, a figure which is probably too high. I believe it would be nearer the correct figure if 19,720 was the one taken.

The number of structurally separate dwellings occupied at the Census was 4,868, and the number of families at the same period was found to be 4,907. The population in private families in the District was 19,843, and the proportion of separate rooms per person works out at 1·24 per person. In only two Townships in the District was there a less proportion than one room per person, at Blackwell, where the ratio was 0·75, and at Youlgreave where the ratio was 0·99 room per person.

The average number of persons per acre was 0·24, so that taking the District as a whole we cannot be said to be overcrowded.

As showing the importance of Agriculture in the District it is found that out of every thousand males no fewer than two hundred and thirty-one are employed in that pursuit, whilst another important industry, that of stone quarrying, absorbs sixty-two out of every thousand males.

The Ratable value of the Bakewell Rural District is £135,900.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

The total number of Births during 1923 was 363, of this number 194 were males and 169 were females. These numbers included sixteen illegitimate births, nine males and seven females. These numbers have not varied much during the last three years.

The Birth Rate is 18·24 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

The total deaths from all causes was 258, of these 126 were males and 132 were females, there being one more male and sixteen more female deaths than during the previous year.

The Death Rate is 12·96 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

Two women died from accident or disease incidental to pregnancy and parturition. No death was attributed to Puerperal Sepsis.

The number of deaths in children under one year of age was twenty-one, seven males and fourteen females. This is equivalent to an Infantile Death Rate of 57·8 per 1,000 Registered Births as compared with 54·6 for the District in 1922.

No deaths occurred amongst illegitimate children under one year of age.

No deaths were certified as caused by Measles; one was caused by Whooping Cough, and one child under the age of two died from Diarrhoea.

On examining the deaths to ascertain the unusual excess of female over male deaths I find that whilst fifteen males died from heart disease, no fewer than twenty-nine females died from the same cause. These figures are contrary to previous experience and I can only make a surmise at the cause. Heart disease with forty-four deaths is, as was the case last year, the cause of the heaviest mortality. Next as a cause of death comes Cancer with thirty-six deaths, eighteen males and eighteen females. I referred to the heavy incidence of Cancer deaths in my Report last year, it is a question fraught with difficulties, but in my opinion the first line to take up in a campaign against this disease is to enlighten the public, so that they may be more ready to suspect its presence, and seek advice in an early stage, when, and probably only when, it may be eradicated. In the mind of the public pain is the outstanding symptom of Cancer. One might say, unfortunately, this is not so, pain is only one of the many manifestations, and may only become a symptom when it is too late. This is but one of the points upon which the public need help.

Eight deaths were certified as being due to Influenza.

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

The following Table shows the number of notifiable diseases reported during the year; the total number of cases removed to Hospital:—

Disease.	Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	—	—
Diphtheria ...	7	—	—
Erysipelas ...	3	—	—
Pneumonia ...	25	—	14
Puerperal Fever ...	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	57	27	1
Tubercular Disease ...	39	—	15

The above figures for Pneumonia suggest that the rate of mortality in this disease is fifty-six per cent. of cases. I cannot believe that it is anything of the sort, the real explanation being that many cases of Pneumonia are never notified at all. Of course it is hardly necessary to explain that the fifteen deaths from tubercular disease reported during the year are not among the thirty-nine cases notified in that period.

No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during 1923. Once more the number of cases of Diphtheria notified was small. They occurred in six separate Townships unconnected with one another. The diagnosis of four of them was confirmed by bacteriological examination, and the mildness of one of the cases may be appreciated by the fact that it was declared to be free from infection within fourteen days of the date of onset. Needless to say this case was not confirmed bacteriologically.

Chicken-pox was made temporarily notifiable in August, and from the date of the adoption of this measure to the close of the year thirty-five cases were notified.

I have constructed the Table shown on the next page so as to show the total number of cases and deaths from notifiable diseases under certain age groups :—

Table giving total cases and deaths of Notifiable Diseases at certain age-groups.

	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-35	36-45	46-65	Over 65	Total.		Removed to Hospital.
	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Deaths.	
Acute Poliomyelitis ..							1						1	1		
Diphtheria				1			3	2		1				7		
Erysipelas	1										1		1	3		
Pneumonia				2		1	1	2	3	6	5	3	2	25	14	
Puerperal Fever										1				1		
Scarlet Fever		2	1	2	4	1	22	18	2	3	2			57	1	27
Pulmonary							1	2	2	2	3	3	2	15	6	
Female...							3		1	5	2			11	3	
Tuberculosis							4	2	3	7	5	3	2	26	8	
Total ...							2	1	1	1				6	2	
Male ...				1			2	1	1	1						
Non-Pulmonary																
Female ...	1	1					3		1	1		1		8	4	
Tuberculosis																
Total ...	1	1		1			5	1	2	2		1		13	6	

4. CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

Influenza began to be more prevalent towards the close of the year. The type of disease was in itself mild, but it was followed by complications which especially attacked the special senses.

5. SUMMARY (FOR REFERENCE) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

Professional Nursing in the Home. (a) *General.* District Nurses are to be found in the larger villages. The provision of this service is due to private enterprise, and, so far as I am aware, they receive no financial assistance from your Council.

(b) *For Infectious Diseases.* There has been no need for me to advise the provision of nursing assistance for infectious disease during the year.

Midwives are under the control of the County Council, the Local Supervising Authority.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. The Infant Welfare Centres at Tideswell and Youlgreave were conducted under the Control of the County Council. At the end of 1923 the Infant Welfare at Youlgreave was closed down. It was not considered that the number attending justified the cost of carrying this Centre. Whilst it did carry on its functions I periodically visited this Centre, when all children who were in attendance came before me for examination. It was certainly doing good work, but the numbers were so small that I could not advise that the Centre should be kept open.

Clinics at which children attending the Public Elementary Schools receive treatment are conducted under the auspices of the County Council, at centres conveniently situate.

Tubercular Clinics are similarly provided by the County Council, one at Matlock for patients from the southern, and one at Chinley for patients from the northern portion of the Bakewell Rural District.

Hospitals. The Hospitals provided are as described in previous Reports. They are under the control of the Haddon Joint Hospital Board. The provision is for six beds for Scarlet Fever at the Whitworth Hospital, Darley Dale, and eight beds for Small Pox near Foolow.

An ever increasing proportion of patients are willing, in most cases anxious, to avail themselves of Hospital accommodation in infectious illness, and out of fifty-seven cases of Scarlet Fever no fewer than twenty-seven were so treated in your Council's area. The fact, however, must be borne in mind that the Hospital provision is shared by the Bakewell Rural and six other sanitary districts. Under these circumstances it is surprising that so many of our cases were accommodated, and it has been a matter of gratification to me to note how readily the staff at the Whitworth Hospital came to our assistance.

The provision of a fully equipped Isolation Hospital ready to accommodate all varieties of infectious disease is still in the distant future, so distant, I opine, that I am not sanguine enough to hope to see its fulfilment in my lifetime, even if I am permitted to reach the allotted span. However, we have some data now upon which we may calculate the probable consummation of this scheme.

Ambulance facilities. (a) *for infectious cases.* I have adversely criticised the ambulance provided for the conveyance of infectious patients in previous Reports. This remains the same, and I fully expect that sooner or later a patient will decline to be conveyed to the Hospital in it. If they do so I do not think they could be fairly blamed.

(b) *for non-infectious and accident cases.* The Motor Ambulances provided and housed in convenient centres by the British Red Cross Society are available.

6. LABORATORY WORK.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out, free of cost to medical practitioners, in the Laboratories of the County Council at Derby. Outfits for the conveyance of specimens to the Laboratory are also provided.

Your Council provide Diphtheria Antitoxin free in necessitous cases, and I believe you were among the first Sanitary Authorities to make this provision.

7. SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The following Adoptive Acts are in force in the District :—

The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Adopted February 27th, 1893.

So much of Part III. of the Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890, as applies to Rural Districts.

Adopted June 14th, 1897.

Part IV. of the same Act.

Adopted April 9th, 1921.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, relating to Public Conveniences.

The Table printed on the next page gives a summary of the Sanitary work carried out during the year.

It will be noted that the number of house inspections under Section 17 of the Housing and Town Planning Act is but small, but, as I have before pointed out to your Council, the time of the Sanitary Inspector is taken up by his other routine work, and if this special work is to be carried through an Officer will need to be appointed who will devote his whole time to this and to nothing else. I have already given you my opinion as to the probable time such a special Officer would have to be employed. Once done and brought up to date it would not be a matter of much trouble to keep it so. If something on these lines is not undertaken the work will not be completed for years to come, when much of the early work will be out of date.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR, 1923.

Bakewell Rural Sanitary District.

Name of Inspector—ALFRED GREEN.

AREA OF DISTRICT 84,145 ACRES. ESTIMATED NO. OF HOUSES 5,170.
NEW HOUSES ERECTED 1924, 15.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING—

No. of Houses Inspected under Section 17. 20.	No. Unfit for Habitation. 1	Representations made to Local Authority as to Closing Orders. 1	Closing Orders Made. 1	Number Repaired without Closing Order. Nil.	Number Repaired after Closing Order made. 1
Number Closed. Nil.	Number Demolished. Nil.	Number Repaired Voluntarily. 5			
			Number of Informal Notices Served by Sanitary Inspector.	Number of Legal Notices served by Local Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated with or without Notice.

DRAINAGE—

No Disconnection of Waste Pipe ...	12	...	—	...	12
Defective Waste Pipe, Traps, Inlets, and Drains	47	...	—	...	47
Drains Obstructed	55	...	—	...	55

CLOSETS AND ASHPITS—

Defective Privies, Pail Closets and Ashpits (Not for Conversion) ...	39	...	—	...	30
Conversion of Privies into W.C.'s ...	6	...	—	...	6
Conversion of Pail Closets into W.C.'s ...	—	...	—	...	—
Conversion of Privies into Pail Closets ...	21	...	—	...	21
Defective Water Closets	1	...	—	...	1
Provision of Additional Water Closets ...	—	...	—	...	—
Provision of Portable Ashbins	2	...	—	...	2
Dirty Closets	1	...	—	...	1

OTHER DEFECTS—

Paving of Courts and Yards... ..	2	...	—	...	2
Roofs, Eaves-Spouts & Down-Spouts ...	21	...	—	...	14
Sinks	—	...	—	...	—
Insufficient Ventilation	10	...	—	...	4
Windows	13	...	—	...	11
Dampness	12	...	—	...	6
Water in Cellars	—	...	—	...	—
Water Supply	12	...	—	...	12
Overcrowding	1	...	—	...	1
Foul Condition of Houses	5	...	—	...	5
Offensive Accumulations	40	...	—	...	40
Animals improperly kept	5	...	—	...	5
Pigsties	—	...	—	...	—
Smoke Nuisances	1	...	—	...	1
Urinals	—	...	—	...	—
Nuisances not specified above	22	...	—	...	16

Totals 328 292

	Number on Register.	Inspections Made.	Notices Served.	Nuisances Abated with or without Notice.
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops ...	300	235	28	14
Bakehouses	30	30	4	4
Slaughterhouses	43	40	6	6
Offensive Trades	4	8	—	—
Common Lodging-houses	1	2	—	—
Totals	378	315	38	24

Infected Rooms Disinfected—Number, 61. Method, Formalin Lamps and Spray.

Signed, ALFRED GREEN.

During 1923 six privy middens were converted into water-closets, and sixty defective privies were either re-constructed or improved. The number of each type of closet in the District is approximately as follows :—

Privy Middens	2658
Pail Closets	993
Water Closets and Slop Water Closets				635

In some of the larger Townships a sewage disposal scheme is required, and in order of necessity I placed them in the following order in my Annual Report for 1922 :—

Eyam.

Ashford, Youlgreave, and Eyam Woodlands.
Bradwell, and
Calver.

The determining factor, however, is the question of cost, and at Eyam an efficient sewage scheme would be very costly indeed. Your Council have under discussion a modified scheme for this village.

At Youlgreave, also, I understand that a sewage scheme is proposed, but I am not aware of the details. I would advise that any scheme which disposes of sewage into disused lead mine workings be very carefully considered before being entered into, first because of the Lead Mining Laws which are peculiar to the Peak District, and second, because the outlet of these workings are not well known and the result may be the creation of a nuisance in some other situation, perhaps in the area of another Sanitary Authority who could not be expected to view the matter with equanimity.

There are forty-three Licensed Slaughter-houses in the District, two more than in the previous year. There is no public abbatoir in the area. I have dealt with this question in previous Annual Reports, and I have no wish to further labour the points I therein raised.

The number of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops on the Register is three hundred. This being a dairying area, a considerable quantity of milk is produced, much of it being sent to the large cities and towns.

Disinfection is carried out after each case of infectious illness by the Sanitary Inspector. Disinfection is by means of Formalin which is generated by means of lamps, or in large rooms, such as school-rooms, by a Formalin Spray. The method continues to prove effective.

Scavenging. This question is ever a difficult one in a Rural District. I would again urge upon your Council the advantage of having portable incinerators for the destruction of household refuse, especially in the larger villages. One or two might, in the first instance, be provided, and I am sanguine enough to believe if this suggestion is acted upon the advantage would soon be so obvious that others would soon be working in the District.

Certain of the villages are provided with a scheme of scavenging, all under contract. The cost per house varies considerably. In some instances only the dry ashes are dealt with by the Scavenger, a form of refuse the incinerators I suggest would adequately and I believe more economically deal with.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Public Health Staff includes a part time Medical Officer of Health and one Sanitary Inspector whose whole time is devoted to the duties of the Office.

9. HOUSING,

The total number of houses erected during 1923 was fifteen, all of them the result of private enterprise. Your Council have erected no new houses during that period, but prior to 1923 you had erected sixty-two new houses, all of which are occupied.

1. *Unfit Dwelling-houses.*

INSPECTION. (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	328
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of Districts) Regulations, 1910	20
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1

2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	292
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	328
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a) By owners	292
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1

I have the honour to be,

My Lord Duke and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS FENTEM.